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## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant(s): Akio FUJIBAYASHI et al.

10/046,106 Serial No.

October 24, 2001 Filed .

METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR For

COOLING HOT ROLLED STEEL

STRIP, AND METHOD FOR

MANUFACTURING HOT ROLLED...

Art Unit

Examiner

1742

## PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Commissioner for Patents Washington, D.C.

SIR:

Please amend the application as follows

## IN THE CLAIMS:

12. (Amended) The apparatus according to claim 10, wherein the water breaking means comprises a water breaking roll.

16. (Amended) The method according to claim 15, wherein a clearance between the lowered water breaking means and the steel strip is maintained to be 1 to 10 mm.

## CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as First Class mail in an envelope

addressed to:

Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231 on the date noted below. S. Buw

Attorney: Richard S. Barth

Dated: <u>April 17, 2002</u>

In the event that this Paper is late filed, and the necessary petition for extension of time is not filed concurrently herewith, please consider this as a Petition for the requisite extension of time, and to the extent not tendered by check attached hereto, authorization to charge the extension fee. or any other fee required in connection with this Paper, to Account No. 06-1378.